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## Almut Hintze. "Zoroastrian Afterlife Beliefs and Funerary Practices"

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## REFERENCES

Almut Hintze. "Zoroastrian Afterlife Beliefs and Funerary Practices" in Ch. M. Moreman (ed.). *The Routledge Companion to Death and Dying*. 2018, London and New York, p. 86-97

- 1 The article presents an overview of the Zoroastrian afterlife beliefs and funerary practices. It starts with a short introduction to Zoroastrian communities, the theological background of Zoroastrian funeral ceremonies, and also the architecture of a *daxma* or 'Tower of Silence'. The author recounts the traditional Zoroastrian funerary rites (e.g., the recitation of *Ašəm Vohu*-prayer, the performance of *sagdīd* 'seen by a dog' rites, etc.) from the death of a person to the exposure of his/her corpse in the *daxma* to be devoured by scavenger birds.
- 2 In the next section, the Zoroastrian eschatological beliefs (e.g., the soul perceiving its own *daēnā* 'religious views', its crossing of the *Činwad* Bridge, etc.) and also the ceremonies (e.g., *Yašt-i sewwom*, *Hōm Drōn*, etc.) which are performed on behalf of the departed to protect his/her soul against evil forces, are discussed and explained.
- 3 Finally, Hinze presents some interesting archaeological evidences for *daxmas* and the different types of pre-Islamic funerary practices in relation to Zoroastrian prescriptions. She also mentions some difficulties related to the practice of exposure that Zoroastrian communities encountered both in Iran and India, and the solutions they managed to find according to their religious prescriptions, e.g., burying the dead in cement or stone-lined graves in Iran and using electric crematoria in India.

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## AUTHORS

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